MASON'S

Coin Collectors' HERALD

VOL. III. SEPTEMBER, 1881. NO. 2.

HISTORY OF UNITED STATES COINAGE.

LAWS RELATING TO COINS AND COINAGE, FROM 1792 UNTIL 1880.

BY AN OLD MERCHANT.

(Continued from June Number, 1881.)

COINS UNDER THE ACT OF 1834.

1. GOLD EAGLES.

The law of 1792 made the gold eagle to contain 247½ grains pure gold and 22½ grains alloy, making 270 grains standard gold.

The law of 1834 made the eagle to contain 232 grains pure gold and 26 grains alloy, making the standard gold in the eagle 258 grains.

The eagle under the law of 1792, had 15½ grains more pure gold than that under the law of 1834, and 3½ grains less alloy under the former than under the latter law, being 26 grains alloy under the latter and 22½ grains under the former. The difference in the weight of the two eagles is 12 grains, that under the law of 1834 being the lighter. *The legal value of the two coins was and is the same; but in the commercial or metallic value they differ about sixty-six cents in* $10.

2. THE HALF-EAGLE.

The half-eagle, under the law of 1792, contained 123¾ grains pure gold and 21¼ grains alloy. The half-eagle contained 135 grains. Under the law of 1834, the half-eagle contained 116 grains pure gold and 129 grains standard gold. Difference between the pure gold in the half-eagle under the law of 1792 and that of 1834, 7¾ grains less in the latter than in the former. The difference between the alloy in the two coins is 1¾ grains more in the latter in the dollar than in the former.

The quarter-eagles bear the same proportions, containing one-fourth the quantity of the eagles and one-half that of the half-eagles.

It will be seen, therefore, that while the commercial or metallic values of these coins are under the two laws different, the legal values are the same under both laws. They are $10, $5, and $2.50, valued by the silver dollar of 371¼ grains pure silver, which is the unit of these coins and of the money of account. The gold coins under the law of 1792, after the act of 1834.

(To be continued.)

IN MEMORIAM.

W. C. Dubois, for many years attached to the U. S. Mint in this city, and more recently assayer, died on the fifteenth of July, at the age of seventy years. Mr. Dubois was known and esteemed by the principal numismatists of this country and Europe, and his opinion as a numismatic expert carried great weight in the decision of questions of the authenticity, etc., of antique coins. Not long since, Mr. Dubois, in behalf of the U. S. Mint, secured from us a very fine "Cromwell Crown," in exchange for early gold eagles (duplicates in the Mint cabinet), and this was doubtless the last official act of the deceased. The sympathy of his many friends and the numismatists of the world are with his family in their bereavement.

Rev. Dr. J. H. Ralston, of Norristown, recently deceased. Dr. Ralston was an enthusiastic scientist, and formed, during his life time, unequalled cabinets of minerals, Indian stone relics, coins, etc. Thus we lose another whole-souled, genial scholar, whose equal it would be difficult to find, and whose loss will be grevi-ously felt by every lover of the numismatic science. Dr. Ralston was a patron of ours many years ago, and his pleasant face, agreeable manners, and extraordinary intelligence will be remembered by us while life lasts.

"Prof." John Wyman, at one time a numismatist and philatelist of note, and a distinguished magician and ventriloquist, deceased at Burlington, N. J., July 30. "Prof." Wyman and the writer commenced the study of numismatics in 1857, the former giving up his collection of coins in 1867, and embracing philately, and a few years later he possessed the most valuable collection of stamps in the United States.

1816 HALF-DOLLAR.

A correspondent has forwarded to this office the pencil rubbing of what he believes to be an 1816 U. S. half-dollar. The impression is from one of the numerous bogus half-dollars made years ago in Europe, and it needs but little intelligence to distinguish this bogus piece from any half-dollar bearing designs made at the U. S. Mint. The Mint had no coinage of half-dollars dated 1816.

Chambers Printing House, 26 North Seventh Street, Philadelphia.

GONE!

A very illiterate dealer in "antique articles of rarity and beauty," such as old panoramas, "Brumagen" coppers, iron pots, stone jars, etc., excavated at Pompeii, County of Dunhegan, Cork, pulled up stakes in this city early in July, and departed for other lands and pastures new. He was questioned by a *News* reporter in reference to his destination, and his simple, expressive, laconic, and unique reply was, "Igo!" How touching! When some of the coin dealers heard of this remark, so full of suggestiveness, they shed tears of sympathy—some sympathizing fifty dollars worth, others one and two hundred dollars worth. All wanted to see the melancholy Dane, from Belfast, once more; to embrace him and keep him among his friends in this, the city of his adoption, but not naturalization. To induce his return, no doubt a suitable reward will be offered for "*The oldest, reliable dealer, who don't have to borrow money, and is his own boss.*" (*vide* Philadelphia advertisements, before *Igo* was *I—gone!*) On the door of 803 Buttonwood Street, this city, is the following placard:

GONE TO ATLANTIC CITY.
BACK IN SIX WEEKS!

(SIX WEEKS LATER.)

Time's up! The Atlantic train is here;
But "nary," Igo on it doth appear.
Alas! how many here will grieve to know
That he's a victim to the *undertow*.

AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NUMISMATICS.

The July number of this quarterly is a very interesting contribution to science, and maintains the lead of all archæological periodicals. A representation of "Aztec money" adorns this number as a frontispiece, and were it not for the printed explanation of the cut, we should have thought the picture represented a pick-axe.

"Early Spanish and Portuguese Coinage in America," by J. C. Brevoort, occupies four pages of the *Journal*, and is an exceedingly interesting and able paper. "Canadian Numismatics," by R. W. M'Lachlan, follows, with nearly half a dozen pages, and is the continuation of various contributions on same subject by same author. Ed. Frossard furnishes an exhaustive article on the "Becker Forgeries," and our fellow-citizen, Henry Phillips, Jr., presents the "Head Dresses Exhibited on Ancient Coins." All these contributions are timely and pleasing, and with various smaller numismatic articles render the *Journal* exceedingly attractive.

THE "BURTON COLLECTION."

W. E. Woodward has purchased the valuable cabinet of coins belonging to Mr. Burton, Geneva Lake, Wisconsin.

THE ORIGIN OF THE FIRST U. S. COIN.

BY E. MASON, JR.

Franklin, ever thoughtful, hating everything "Baronial,
Disliked the English-looking coin, whose origin was "Colonial.
So, in his thinking moments, while in old Hartford town,
Designed a native copper coin, with emblems all his own;
With blazing "Sun" and "Dial," and with legend, "Fugio,"
This coin appeared in public—the time was apropos.
It hinted to the people in language not unkind,
If prosperity was wanted, their *business* they must *mind*;
On *obverse side*, the Sun appeared as if direct from Heaven,
And just below, there was the date of "1787."
On *reverse side*, an endless chain of *thirteen links* was seen,—
The big plain words, "We Are One," was neatly placed between.
He "builded stronger than he knew," for near a hundred years.
For *now*, as *then*, "United States" *united* still appears.
Then let all true Americans in the warmest praises join
To credit Benjamin Franklin with the origin of our coin.

—*Our Home.*

Philadelphia, July, 1881.

MINT DROPS.

During the past few years, the U. S. five- and three-cent nickel pieces, in uncirculated condition, have become rare, while the 1877–'8–'9 pieces of these denominations are quite scarce. The small or minor proof sets of years' quoted, however, supply a want among collectors, although at a constantly increa[illegible] value.

THE OLD AUTHORITIES.

Prime's work on American Coinage, with its fictitious values of the various examples, and Dickerson's Manual of American Coins, have been supplanted, in correctness of description, values, and elaborateness, by the more modern works of Crosby, Frossard, *et al.* *Time* has materially changed the fictitious values of our country's coinage, and new discoveries, numismatically speaking, have rendered the old "stand-by's" almost useless to the expert collector. In the same way, future works of this character will lay the present authorities on the shelf, judging by the quantity of unique coins coming to the surface, as well as the numerous new varieties of U. S. and Colonial coins constantly turning up. All honor, however, to the persistent workers who have given their time and means to the proper study of American coins, by publishing elaborate illustrated books on this interesting subject.

SENSE AND NONSENSE.

Passing around the contribution box is one way of getting the *cents* of the meeting.—*Am. Journal of Numismatics.*

Another way to get the *scents* of the meeting is to capture the skunks so frequently found during service in country churches.—*Squedunk Mirror.*

THE 1799 AND 1804 U. S. CENTS.

BY E. MASON, JR., NUMISMATIST. No. 1

THERE are many secrets of the coin business known only to regular dealers and expert collectors, which, if published, would save the amateur much annoyance and expense. I propose discussing two of the most valuable United States copper cents, viz.: 1799 and 1804, presenting for the first time in print infallible rules for discovering counterfeits, or copies and alterations. It is generally known that electrotypes (so-called) are lead casts covered with a copper surface by the use of an electric battery. All these copies or casts can readily be detected by carefully balancing the coin on the tip of the forefinger, and striking the metal with the edge of a copper or other coin. The absence of a good ringing sound is sufficient reason, in most cases (very thick coins do not ring readily), to doubt the genuineness of any coin. The most difficult counterfeits to detect are the altered dates, particularly 1799 and 1804 cents; and here is where our information comes in to protect the buyer. There are three varieties of the 1799 cents, two of which differ but slightly, and are termed the "clear-knobbed 99's," while the other, and more distinct variety, is termed the "98 die," the latter being from a 1798 die altered to a 1799. These alterations are of common occurrence in the gold, silver, and copper coinage of the United States. As there was but one reverse die used with the one obverse die in the coinage of the clear-knobbed 1799's, there is *but one reverse to all the* 1799 *cents*, and this reverse has a peculiar mark, being caused by a flaw in the die, viz.: a period-like raised spot, between the words ONE and CENT, resembling a "mint mark," and located to the right, between the N in cent and E in one. The 1804 cent also possesses an important feature on its reverse side, and any United States cent of this date not having it can be pronounced fraudulent. The stems of the wreath of a genuine 1804 cent are almost horizontal with the bottom of the wreath, while in other dates, with which alterations are made, the stems of the wreath are at a lower angle. This is also an infallible test, as there was *but one reverse die used in coining the* 1804 *cents*. Let all collectors look well at the reverses of their 1799 and 1804 cents, and remember the rules herein given for detecting altered dates. Our next article will refer to the 1804 dollar.

THE 1804 U. S. DOLLAR.

Important Numismatic Information Imparted to "Our Home," by E. Mason, Jr.

SECOND PAPER.

THE most important and most valuable coin known to the collection of the American coinage, is the silver dollar of 1804. We have other coins quite as rare, and a few *unique* pieces that might vie with the dollar in fictitious value; but as the 1804 dollar has been tested by actual sales, and stands at the head of all American coins in point of value, we must acknowledge its supremacy. The cause of the excessive rarity of the 1804 dollar is not fully known. By some writer it is stated that the dies were made in 1803 but were not used until some some years later, and then but a few specimens were coined. In 1858 or 9 the dies of the 1804 were found, cleaned up, and a few pieces struck, differing from the original only on the periphery. The original dollar having a lettered edge, the re-strikes a plain edge. This difference was due to the fact that the dies to the original were accompanied by a collar which produced the lettered edge, while the absence of a collar (lost or destroyed) in making the re-strikes accounts for the latter having plain edges. There are but a dozen examples of the 1804 dollar known, and of these, at least six are restrikes. J. J. Mickly, recently deceased, had an original 1804 U. S. dollar, which was sold by W. E. Woodward in 1867 at public auction, realizing *seven hundred and fifty dollars!* The same coin, if offered now for public competition, would fetch from *one thousand* to to *fifteen hundred dollars!* There was but one obverse die used for the 1804 dollar and as that die differed slightly from all others of the same type, it is readily distinguished from counterfeits or alterations.

The most important portion of this article is the question, "how are we to detect counterfeit or altered 1804 dollars?" The dollars of 1801 and 1803 are selected as the best adapted to alterations—the 1801 because the last numeral is readily altered to 4—the 1803 because one obverse variety of this date bears a close resemblance to the obverse of 1804. The latter is the most dangerous counterfeit, and frequently deceives well-known experts. The obverse of the genuine 1804 United States dollar has sharp-pointed, large, well-defined stars, and the point of the upper star, to the right of the bust, nearly touches the right angle of the upper portion of the Y in LIBERTY: in fact, so close in proximity as to leave but a hair's breadth between them. One variety of the 1803 dollar nearly answers this description, but the space is wider between the star and Y, and the stars are not in the same relative position as in the case of the 1804 dollar. There are other minute differences in the designs or obverses of the 1803 and 1804 dollars, but these serve to confuse the examiner and are not as important as those above quoted.

There is another dangerous counterfeit 1804 dollar, viz.: the electrotype copy, or rather the "cast copy," covered with a thin coating of copper. Although there is a severe law against the production of these "cast copies," we frequently see them in public sale catalogues and on sale at the second-class or small dealer's stands.

[The above is copied from the series of "numismatic papers," written for *Our Home and Science Gossip*, of which our numismatic friend, D. A. K. Andrus, Rockford, Ill., is one of the proprietors and publishers.]

MASON'S COIN COLLECTORS' HERALD.

E. MASON, JR., EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

TERMS - - - - $1.00 per Annum in Advance,

PHILADELPHIA, SEPTEMBER, 1881.

THE PRESCOTT COIN SALE.

CONCORD, N. H., July 6th and 7th.

It will be a surprise to many of our readers to learn that a sale of the late Dr. Wm. Prescott's cabinet of coins, books, etc., took place as above, and was attended by Woodward, Moore, Runnells, Haines, Sawyer, Brooks, numismatists of New England, and many book buyers from Concord and vicinity. There were four hundred and seventy-four lots of books, one hundred and ten lots of coins, and a dozen lots of "Curiosities, Antiquities, Autographs," etc. George Washington's Wedding Sword, a light, small gold-plated weapon was offered and withdrawn for want of a suitable bid. This is the sword mentioned in Washington's will, and the one worn at his marriage with the widow Custis. A "Pine Tree shilling" of 1660 realized about $8; a lot of cancelled New Hampshire Colony notes, $18. Copper cents, half-cents, Colonial coins, and silver half-dollars, dimes, half-dimes, three cent pieces, etc., brought all they were worth, lacking rarity and fineness. Foreign silver coins were bought by Moore and Haines, at reasonable prices.

RATHER MIXED.

Chapman Brothers announced a coin sale in the July number of the Boston *American Journal of Numismatics*, as follows: "Notice.—We intend selling at auction in New York during July. * * * * We will probably hold the sale about the 21st ultimo." Now, which of the brothers, in the hot month of July, perpetrated this error of time we do not know. Perhaps the intention was to say the sale would take place *in July*, or had taken place *in June*, or would occur *in August*. The *instant* was wanting where the *ultimo* stood and the *proximo* was not thought of.

WOODWARD IN LUCK.

W. Eliot Woodward has purchased the late Rev. Dr. Ralston's magnificent collection of Indian stone relics. This means a sale by auction at Bangs & Co.'s house, New York, in the fall. We had the pleasure of examining this collection at the time it was purchased, and though we secured, at the same time, the collection of United States silver coins, and a splendid coin cabinet, forming a part of the Ralston collection, we didn't get the *stones*. Woodward did.—happy man

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

Numisma (Bi-Monthly) for July, received and scanned with considerable interest. The quarrel, or rather "unpleasantness" between the editor and our Roxbury friend, W. E. W., continues, to the amusement of the lookers on. W., it seems, inserted in one of his recent catalogues a detailed story of one Ichabod, in the Rip Van Winkle style, leaving the reader to form his own conclusions as to the party hit. *Numisma* hits the author of the pleasant little bit of satire in numerous spots, and the fun continues. The main editorial in the current *Numisma* is devoted to the recent fabrication entitled by the editor, "THE 1665 XII PENCE." We "*Si still and saw nix.*" (This is meant for a foreign expression, only appreciated by the French); but we smile as we think of one individual in New England who will read the description of the unique (?) coin, and, as he reads it, he will "giggle" right out. We are led to suppose this exuberance of humor on the part of the N. E. gent. by various circumstances which are not exactly facts, or references of a positive nature, concerning what we believe to be a recent manufacture in a numismatic way, but having had duplicates of the aforementioned coin (?) we feel like the man that *knew something*. Mr. Schayer paid $25 for the new discovery, and there is no doubt that it will be valuable in the future, as but half a dozen of the pieces are known. It seems, by a letter from Jeff. Davis, in the July number of *Numisma*, that he holds a personal medal (presented to him for bravery, etc., and stolen from him), in little esteem when he writes the editor as follows: "If you can recover it you are welcome to it." Perhaps Jeff. isn't particularly anxious to have mementos of the "Lost Cause." *Numisma* reports metric sets again in the market, and generously offers to pay $39 for three sets, and this, too, when he was in communication with us, and knew that we had three for sale! We thank him for the advertisement, but would say it did not cheapen the sets any. *Vide* Chapman's sale, price $25.

The idea that C. W. Betts made the 1665 shilling is ridiculous, and did not require a contradiction, which appears in *Numisma*, from the distinguished originator of the greatest numismatic frauds ever perpetrated in this country. Oh! Betts! Betts! you have much to answer for, and it appears that your contrition over the subject of making the Colonial (?) pieces is genuine, and the boys are willing to forgive you, but who pays the cost?

SUMMER COIN SALES.

All coin sales that have taken place in the hot months have been successful. This speaks well for the coin trade—present, past, and future.

LAID OVER.

Continued articles, and several minor items, are unavoidably laid over for next issue.

NUMISMATIC EXCURSIONS.

NEW SERIES, No. 2.

During the latter part of May, the editor of the *Herald*, accompanied by his assistant, C. E. M., started for New Hampshire for a grand fishing excursion, to be supplemented by a coin hunting and coin selling tour through several cities in Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. Selecting the Bound Brook route to New York, we paused in the latter long enough to visit friend Brown, the popular stamp and coin dealer; purchased some rare Southern colonial notes, a few coins, etc.; thence to Scott's, where the iciness of our reception prevented the display of some fine coins and the purchase by us of stock necessary for our trip. However, as the proprietor of Scott & Co's establishment was sick at home, we overlooked the frigid treatment received, and procuring coins of other dealers we left New York, *via* steamer, for Norwalk, Connecticut, thence to Worcester, Massachusetts, Nashua, Manchester, Concord, Hillsboro', Mast Yard, and Fishersville, New Hampshire, and returned *via* Concord and Manchester to Lowell, Massachusetts. At each of the cities named, we met with a warm reception, accomplished a paying business, picked up some good coins, paper money, autograph letters, etc., and remained at Lowell, under the protecting care of that whole-souled landlord, Frank Harris, of the Harris House. Here we met our friends Elliot, Mathews, Gardner, Williams, Kennedy, and others, and had a pleasant exchange of numismatic courtesies; disposing of some beautiful American coins and accomplishing a little trade; but failed to secure a very fine pair of U. S. silver dollars, dated 1851 and 1852.

To retrace our steps, we must not forget the delightful tramp around the pretty little town of Hillsboro' in company with friend Eaton. The Valley Hotel at Hillsboro' is kept by a tip-top, clever landlord, and our stay of Saturday, Sunday, and Monday was much enjoyed. Here we saw some early gold coins of the United States that tempted us greatly, but owner would not sell. The fishing excursion was engineered by Edward Runnells, and occurred after we left Hillsboro' at a beautiful spot on the Contoocook River, a delightfully romantic stream which empties into the Merrimack River. The time was midnight. Runnells had prepared his boat with fat pine knots, spears, and all the essentials for a first-class fish spearing expedition. Runnells and his really useful son, C. E. M., and the writer formed the party. The night was dark, and the burning pine knots on the bow of our vessel directed our course, and soon we passed into waters sufficiently shallow to reveal the bottom, and then commenced the fun. Our Ned, Jr., bore off the palm, in numbers spearing eight large—shall we say *pickerel?* No. There is a good old law in New Hampshire fining fishermen ten dollars for each pickerel caught before the first of June, so we call them *suckers*. Runnells took second premium, spearing six large fish and one huge turtle, weighing nearly a dozen pounds. The sport was exciting, and the fish lay like pieces of large rope on the bottom, and at the slightest miss of the spear, the pick—or rather the *suckers*—shot off quicker than a flash. Suffice it, we had a grand fish dinner, and as we left the turtle alive on Runnell's lawn, we think he and his excellent wife enjoyed real turtle soup after we left. So much for fish. Runnells has a very good collection of coins, almanacs, etc., and is one of the enthusiastic collectors who "read up" and enjoy their treasures. Mrs. Runnells is also the possessor of a coin cabinet; hence the numismatic feeling is mutual in the lone farm house on the banks of the Contoocook. To return to Lowell. We regret the jeweller on the main street did not sell us that beautiful 1797 dime,—better luck next time. From Lowell we passed on to Wilmington, where we started, or rather helped on the nucleus of a coin collection belonging to Mrs. H. A. M., near the depot. Here we had a pleasant time, and spent an afternoon and night, going thence to Boston. Stopped at the Quincy Hotel, where the writer jingled coins and Ned, Jr., jingled the piano in the grand saloon devoted to the ladies. Visited all the Boston dealers and collectors, and left *via* Boston and Maine Railroad for Portland, where we were guests of Captain William Mitchell, the well-known steamboat captain and railroad man; staying at his delightful country seat at Deering, a few miles from Portland. At this city we met Smith, Burleigh, and numerous other collectors, with whom we transacted considerable business, and had the pleasure of examining Smith's coin collection, and a pretty large and interesting one it was, and is now larger from the addition of some choice proofs we unloaded at his very handsome residence. Did not see Curtis, Dow, or Paine, three prominent collectors, hence our stay was not prolonged beyond a few days. Captain Mitchell deserves to be publicly thanked for the various rides and excursions, in and around our native city, we enjoyed, and if he don't enjoy Philadelphia when he comes this way, it will not be our fault. From Portland back to Boston,—to Woodward's, Schayer's, Ahlborn's, the "Curiosity Shop," Moore's, and other numismatists in Boston, we wandered, picking up here and there some fine pieces, and distributing the collection of beautiful United States cents and early gold coins purchased by us from Phinehas Adams. From Boston to New York; thence back to our coin store to remain a few days. Early in June we visited Reading, Lebanon, Lancaster; and in July repeated the trip, taking in Norristown, and had the pleasure of W. E. Woodward's society on the latter excursion. In company with friend W. we called at the Ralston Mansion, about sixteen miles west of this city, and examined a choice collection of Indian stone relics—the finest in

condition, the greatest in variety, and largest in quantity in America,—perhaps the *largest* and *finest* American collection of Indian stone relics in the world. Woodward bought it and Mason didn't lose anything. Mason & Co. purchased the Ralston collection of silver dollars, and the fine cabinet in which the late Dr. Ralston kept his coins. From Ralston's, Woodward accompanied us to Lancaster, where we introduced him to Rohrer, Brenneman, and others. W. opened his eyes at the large cabinet of coins owned by Mr. Rohrer; and Mason offered three thousand dollars for the collection, but R. preferred to keep his treasures. Here, at the spacious residence of Mr. Rohrer, we saw rows of 1793 cents, lines of 1799's and 1804's, and rows of 1794, 1801, 1802, 1815, 1836 (Reeded), and 1852 half-dollars. Woodward had business in the far west, and after calling for Steigerwalt, and *icing up* on Queen Street, W. took train for Chicago, M. for Philadelphia, and S. for home. So much for May, June, and July.

(To be Continued.)

ADDITIONAL SUBSCRIBERS.

The following subscribers have reported and paid subscriptions to Vol. 3 of our periodical. (To all we return thanks, and have sent the new "Combined Buying and Selling Coin Priced Catalogue," and the "Gold-Plated Mint Medal." With this number we send to all subscribers our "Gold Coin Priced Catalogue"):

F. M. ALDEN,
(The first subscriber to Vol. 3 omitted in previous issues.)
THEODORE F. ROSE,
W. FEWSMITH,
MISS MARY A. LATCH,
RODNEY A. MERCUR,
A. D. PACKARD,
N. A. PRIDE,
JAS. L. SMITH,
WM. J. JENKS,
CLAYTON A. SMITH,
GEO. L. DAVIS,
A. W. JACKMAN,
W. A. P. SMITHSON,
THOMAS RAMSDEN,
JNO. E. KENNEDY,
W. F. GREANY,
GEO. H. WELLS,
S. P. WOODWARD.

POSTAGE-STAMP DEPARTMENT.

We have commenced again the branch of business termed "Philately," and shall keep a good assortment of used and unused stamps, in packets and singly, and a stock of fine albums, ranging from twenty-five cents to twenty-five dollars each. (See advertisement on last page.) Our packets range from five cents to five dollars each, and are warranted to give satisfaction. Large and small collections wanted in exchange for coins or for cash. All stamps guaranteed genuine. Mr. C. Edward Mason, a capable, affable, and strictly conscientious philatelist, has charge of the "Postage-Stamp Department."

U. S. SUBSIDIARY COIN.

The U. S. Mint has not yet coined the regular halves, quarters, and dimes for 1881.

CALIFORNIA GOLD PIECES AND CALIFORNIA "SCALES."

The little gold halves and quarters now extensively used by the ladies for bangles,—appended to rings, bracelets, etc., etc.,—are for sale in most of the jewelry and brokers stores in the United States. There are three kinds in the market purporting to be struck in California, but two varieties termed "Scales" are common trash, manufactured in Chicago and Providence, sent to California and re-shipped to the Eastern States, at very low prices wholesale, as California gold pieces. Beware of these,—they are thin, turn red when exposed to light, and will not stand fire for soldering uses. The California pieces we advertise are warranted good, solid gold, much heavier than the imitation pieces or "scales," and more perfect in designs and shape. These halves and quarters stand fire and acid, wear well, and are made in San Francisco.

"Scales" have the words "Cal. Half," Cal. Quar.," while the genuine have the words "Cal. ½ Dol." "Cal. ¼ Dol." Be sure and get the latter if value, beauty, and durability is wanted.

CONCORD IN THE NUMISMATIC FOLD.

Coin sales have been held in Baltimore, Pittsburgh, and Lancaster; and now comes Concord, a beautiful and enterprising city of New Hampshire, to take her place with the former cities in joining the ranks of Boston, Providence, New York, and Philadelphia as numismatic centres. We hope to hear from Concord again, in the way of public coin sales. The Governor of New Hampshire has set the boys an example with his fine cabinet of coins and enthusiastic spirit in collecting. All around Concord we find collections of coins, autographs, minerals, books, etc., and many collectors, most of whom we have met in our periodical visits to New Hampshire. Keep the ball in motion.

GOLD COIN PRICED CATALOGUE.

To non-subscribers of the *Herald* the new gold-priced sheet will be mailed on receipt of 10 cents. Subscribers receive all our side publications free.

CHAT WITH CORRESPONDENTS.

R. S., Chicago.—The *Home and Science Gossip* is a reliable paper, and worthy your confidence and support. In the communication you alluded to, written for the *Home* by the editor of the *Herald*, a typographical error makes us say "1797 cent," when we wrote "1799 cent," a "distinction with a difference" as regards value. Again, we intended to say that all perfect dates (1799 U. S. cents) have the same reverse with the rude dot between the words ONE and CENT. The 1799 over 1798 variety of U. S. cents, are different on reverse, and do not have the so-called "mint mark" or dot. This explanation will set you straight on the varieties. The 1804 cents have but one reverse, and on all issues the stems of wreath are almost horizontal with the bottom of the wreath—nearly touching. Other cents, of near the period of 1804, have the stems at a lower angle.

P. L. P., Concord.—We sent bids to the New Hampshire sale, but could not attend in person. Thanks for catalogue

POSTAGE-STAMP CORNER.

All correspondence relating to postage stamps, albums, etc., and all contributions to this department of the Herald, should be addressed to C. EDWARD MASON,
No. 32 North 13th Street, Philad'a., Pa.

CHEAP SETS OF STAMPS.

		NEW.	USED.
*Baden, unpaid	3 varieties,	$ 10	
*Bavaria, unpaid, 1863	2 "	10	
Bergedorf	5 "	20	
*Brazil, 1866	7 "		15
*Bremen	6 "	50	
*Bremen envelopes	2 "	10	
*Canada, registered	3 "	25	
Cashmere	2 "	15	
Chili, 1878	5 "		25
*Denmark official	3 "		8
Dutch Indies	3 "	10	
Egypt official	6 "	25	
Greece	8 "		15
Honduras, 1878	2 "	10	8
*Italy official	8 "		25
Mauritius, Britannia, ver., blue red on blue	3 "	1 00	
*Mexico, 1874–78	6 "		30
Mozambique	7 "	1 50	
Mozambique	2 "	15	
Newfoundland	6 "		15
New Zealand	5 "		10
Orange Free States	4 "		15
*Peru, 1866–67	3 "		15
*Roman States, 1867	7 "	25	
*Roumania, 1866	3 "	15	
*Saxony, 1863	6 "	8	
Sicily	2 "		15
*St. Christopher	2 "		8
St. Thomas and Prince	2 "	15	
*Sweden, unpaid	10 "		25
*Sweden, 1872–77	10 "		15
*U. S. of Colombia, 1876	3 "		10
U. S. Centennial envelope	2 "	15	5
*U. S. Interior Department	10 "		20

Those marked thus (*) are complete sets.

C. EDWARD MASON,
32 North Thirteenth Street, Philadelphia.

GENUINE AND CHEAP STAMP PACKETS.

We will send the following scarce used stamps on receipt of price:

12 Denmark	10c.
5 Egypt	5c.
5 Newfoundland	10c.
6 Turkish	6c.
12 West Indian, from St. Domingo, St. Vincent, etc.,	25c.
12 African, from Gambia, Liberia, etc.	25c.
12 Asiatic, from Sarawak, Ceylon, etc.	25c.
12 South and Central American, from Nicaraugua, Salvador, etc.	25c.

Address, C. EDWARD MASON,
No. 32 North 13th Street, Philada., Pa.

N. B.—Send for new lists issued monthly.

BOOKS FOR SALE.

CROSBY'S EARLY COINS OF AMERICA, 12 numbers, complete; clean and new: has many illustrations of American, colonial, and other pieces photographed directly from the coins, etc. (Published at $12.) Price, $9.50.

FOUR VOLS. OF AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NUMISMATICS. New York, 1866 to 1869, complete; clean. These four volumes comprise all of the A. J. of N. published by the Numismatic Society of N. Y., at $3 per volume. Price, $6.00.

Seven Vols. same, complete and clean; 1870 to 1876, published by the Boston Numismatic and Antiquarian Society, at $3 per volume. Price, $10.00.

Odd Numbers of same, scattering through the period 1866 to 1881, inclusive; many illustrated; all perfect. Singly 15 cents, or two for 25 cents.

Phillips' large work in two volumes. (SERIES 1 AND 2.) Entitled "*Historical Sketches of the Paper Currency of the American Colonies.*" **Only 50 Copies issued.** Large paper (quarto); clean, uncut; bound in cloth. Published at $10 by subscription. Volume 1, Colonial Paper Money. Volume 2, Continental Paper Money. Price per volume $3. The two volumes $5.50.

MASON'S MONTHLY COIN MAGAZINE, six volumes; clean and perfect (1867 to 1872); contains "Mason's History of American Coins," and many important coin papers. Price, $10.00.

Odd Numbers of same 15 cents.

Two large bound volumes, containing many comic and other almanacs; new and clean; modern; half morocco, $1.00 per volume. (One contains Josh Billings' and the other *Danbury News* almanacs.)

MASON & Co., No. 32 N. 13th St., Philad'a.

NUMISMATIC AND ANTIQUARIAN SCRAPS.

George Mason, of Alexandria, Va., has presented to the Historical Society of that State the desk upon which George Mason, his great-grandfather, wrote the Virginia Bill of Rights. The desk is made of Virginia oak, and is pretty well preserved.

SPLENDID ELECTROTYPES FOR SALE.

A few copies of the finest known original U. S. copper cents and half-cents, and other pieces have been recently secured. We will send, *postage free*, the following, viz.:

1793, 1799, 1804, 1809 cents	$0.25
1793, 1796 half-cents	25
1802, 1831, and 1836 half-cents	25
1840, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 half-cents	25
1849 small date half-cents	25
1852 half-cent	25
1795 cent, (Jefferson head) from Mason's original, now owned by a Massachusetts collector	50
Washington cent, 1791	25
" " 1792	25
" " 1792, (variety)	25
Washington cent (naked bust,) 1792	35
Carolina Elephant Piece, 1694	35
Kentucky cents	25
Massachusetts half-cents, 1787 and 1788	25
Immunis Columbia, 1787	25
Good Samaritan shilling (solid copper,) electrotype	1.00
Same, lead copy	25
Oliver Cromwell, crown	50
Solid copper, silvered	1.00
Henry VIII. shilling. First English shilling issued (original, excessively rare,) copy very fine, silvered	50

DEALERS SUPPLIED AT REDUCED PRICES.

MASON & CO., 32 NORTH THIRTEENTH ST.,

PHILADELPHIA.

American Journal of Numismatics.

PRICE: $2.00 per Annum in Advance.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO

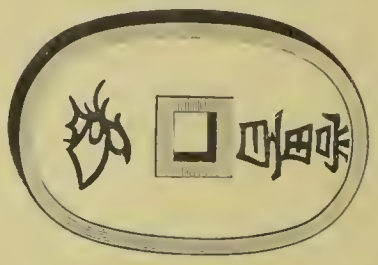
JEREMIAH COLBURN,

18 Somerset St., Boston, Mass.

AMERICAN INDIAN STONE RELICS.

Axes, large	$1.00
Axes, small	75
Pipes	5.00
Good arrow points (large and small)	$5.00 per 100
Plumb bob or sinker	50 cents
Spear heads, each	35 "

FOREIGN COINS.



100 Foreign copper coins, good to fine	$5.00 per 100
100 " " " fair to good	3.00 " "
English tokens, good	5 cents each.
" " fine	10 " "
" " uncirculated	20 " "

(All different.)

MASON & Co., 32 N. 13th St., Philad'a.

LIPPINCOTT'S MAGAZINE,

A POPULAR ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY

DEVOTED TO

LITERATURE, SCIENCE, ART, AND TRAVEL.

FOR SALE BY ALL BOOK AND NEWSDEALERS.

YEARLY SUBSCRIPTIONS	$3.00
SINGLE NUMBERS	25

J. B. LIPPINCOTT & CO.,

Nos. 715 and 717 MARKET STREET,

PHILADELPHIA.

CALIFORNIA GOLD COINS.

Having received a few beautiful specimens of these interesting little gold half- and quarter-dollars, we will mail, free of postage, in proof condition—

California gold half-dollars	$0.55		
" " quarter-dollars	30		
Two half-dollars	$1.05	Two quarters	$0.52
Three " "	1.55	Three "	75
Six " "	3.00	Six "	1.50

Address, MASON & Co., 32 North Thirteenth Street, Philadelphia.